

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 233029

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS FLASH

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S E C R E T STATE 233029

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NPG ACTIVITIES

REF: USNATO 5843; STATE 230839

1. BASED UPON REPORTS CONTAINED USNATO 5843 AND USNATO 5858, YOU MAY INDICATE TO SYG LUNS AND OTHER NPG PERMREPS THAT US CONCURS IN POSTPONEMENT OF NOVEMBER 7-8 NPG MEETING. WE ASSUME THAT POSTPONEMENT OF FALL MEETING WILL NOT SET PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE, AND THAT SPRING MEETING WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD UNDERLINE TO ALLIES THE NEED FOR CAREFUL COORDINATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF POSTPONEMENT OF FALL MEETING. WE SUGGEST THAT, IF OTHER ALLIES AGREE, NATO SPOKESMAN INDICATE

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PAGE 02 STATE 233029

IN LOW-KEY STATEMENT THAT THE PRESS OF CURRENT BUSINESS

IN A NUMBER OF ALLIED CAPITALS HAD LED MINISTERS TO CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DEFER THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN NPG ON CURRENT ISSUES UNTIL THE DPC MEETING ON DECEMBER 11. ALSO SPOKESMAN COULD STATE THAT MINISTERS LOOK FORWARD TO RESUMING DISCUSSIONS IN THE NPG CONTEXT AT THE REGULAR NPG MEETING TO BE HELD NEXT SPRING.

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